

Thomas Butler to Andrew Jackson, August 23, 1804, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

THOMAS BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Farm, August 23, 1804.

Dr. Genl. Your favor of the day I have received pr. Boy, be assured we regreted much not having had the pleasure of seeing you and Mrs. Jackson, I am obliged to see Mrs. Bell Butler and family before I set off, or I should have rode over to see you this evening, as I assure you, I never wanted your friendly advice more than at this crisis, the General having explained himself, in a note, in a duplicate of his letter of the 9th. of July,¹ which I shew you, the design is manifest, and the subterfuge dishonorable, the or[d]er is in the words following—"you will be pleased to note an error in the letter of which this is a duplicate, and read 1st. of Febry., instead of 4th. of Febry. in the second paragraph".

1 Aug. 24, 1804, Colonel Butler wrote to General Wilkinson acknowledging the receipt of the latter's order of July 9, and repeating his determination not to conform to that part of Wilkinson's orders relating to the cropping, which he considered "an arbitrary infraction of my natural rights, and a non-compliance on my part not cognizable by the articles of war". But he announced that he intended to set out for New Orleans by land on Aug. 28. The letter is in the War Department files. With it are copies of Wilkinson to Butler, Feb. 4, July 9, Sept. 3, Oct. 10, 1804, and Butler to Wilkinson, Aug. 6, 1804.

My Dr. Sir, this is an unhallowed act. I am not able to decide, whether I should address the President, and wait his answer, or proceed, as I have no doubt now but the generals intention is to harass me, and probably when I reach orleans, I may meet an order which

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is to prevent me from taking command untill that order is complied with, should I proceed that awaits me; and should I not proceed, but wait an answer from the President (unless he interposes) I shall be arrested for disobedience of orders. do pray my Dr. Sir, give me your Ideas, on this trying subject, I shall send my son over on saturday, and if you think I should not move untill I write the President and receive his answer, I will call and see you on monday. should you advise me to proceed, I will immediately; being now prepared. accept my best thanks for the Horse, and be assured that the favor has given me one other proof of your friendship.

Our respects to Mrs. Jackson

I am Dr. Genl, your obed. Servt